

College of the Humanities
Carleton University
HUMS 1200A

**Humanities and Classical Civilization
Fall 2026**

Prof. Erik Stephenson
Paterson Hall 2A57
erik.stephenson@carleton.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11am to noon

Course Description:

This course aims to do two things. Through the study of a wide variety of texts from different periods and of different genres, it will serve as an introduction to the history of ancient Greek literature and the ideas that animated it. But no less crucially, the course will also help students develop the ability to analyze a text and write a sound essay of textual interpretation. Thus, it is both a 'content' course and a 'skills' course, and these two aims will go hand in hand. Students will not only achieve an understanding of the content of the course by listening to lectures, but also by putting what they learn about textual interpretation and essay writing into practice. And their understanding of the content will deepen as they perfect their reading and writing abilities.

Prerequisites: first-year standing in the Bachelor of Humanities program.

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1:05pm to 2:25pm

Required Texts: you must purchase the following books. They are available at Singing Pebble Books (206 Main St, Ottawa, ON, K1S 1C6, 613-230-9165). But you are of course free to order them online or through your favourite local bookseller.

- Homer. *The Iliad*. Tr. R. Fagles. Ed. B. Knox. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1990. (Approx. \$30)
- Homer. *The Odyssey*. Tr. R. Fagles. Ed. B. Knox. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1996. (Approx. \$30)
- Lefkowitz, M. & Romm, J. (Eds.) *The Greek Plays: Sixteen Plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides*. New York: Modern Library, 2017. (Approx. \$35)

Online Reading:

Texts from other ancient authors we will be studying will be posted to Brightspace.

Recommended Texts:

- MacIsaac, D. G. *The Humanities Writing Guide* (available on Brightspace).
- Pomeroy, S. et. al. *A Brief History of Ancient Greece*. Third edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Ruvinsky, Maxine. *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource*. Second edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press Canada, 2009
- Strunk, W. & White E.B. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

These are not required; you do not need to purchase them. However, you will find each extremely useful in its own way.

Grades:

Grades will be based solely on individual, academic merit as judged against absolute standards. Grades will not be adjusted to achieve a supposedly normal distribution or manipulated in any other way.

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

Attendance	10%
Engagement/participation	5%
Formative assignment 1	5%
Formative assignment 2	10%
Formative assignment 3	10%
Formative assignment 4	10%
Summative final exam (exegetical essay)	50%
Total	100%

- I will distribute handouts describing the nature of, and my expectations for, each of the components of your final grade listed above.
- **The most important thing to note** is that while this option is *not recommended*, students can choose not to complete **one** of the formative assignments.

- In this case, the value of the formative assignment that was not completed will be added to the value of the final exam (which *must* be completed).
 - Thus, for example, if you choose not to complete the fourth formative assignment, your final exam (exegetical essay) will be worth 60% rather than 50% of your final mark.
- At the end of the course, you will be assigned a letter grade corresponding to your final percentage, according to the standard Carleton University grading scale (which can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar online here:
<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/grading/>)

Learning Outcomes:

With respect to the assimilation of course content:

- Students should come away from this course with a solid understanding of each of the individual texts studied in it in terms of their narrative structures, overarching arguments, themes and core ideas, intended audiences, literary devices, and so on.
- They should also have a grasp of some of the lines of development and influence that can be traced between them, as well as some of the differences in genre, treatment of themes, and conceptualization of core ideas, that can be discerned between them.
- Furthermore, through the course lectures and our study of these representative texts, students should leave the course with a general sense of the major events, ideas, and artistic, social, cultural, institutional, and economic developments, that characterize the different periods in Ancient Greek history.

With respect to the acquisition of skills:

- Students should come away from the course able to:
 - (1) analyze a literary work of whatever genre and length into its parts, and thus identify its conclusion(s) and antecedent plot developments or supporting premises;
 - (2) understand how the text's various sections or premises work together to entail or bring about a certain conclusion;
 - (3) represent this analysis and understanding visually in the form of a text-outline;
 - (4) explicate this analysis and understanding clearly and concisely by way of a short, written exegetical assignment based on a detailed plan;

- (5) and argue in writing, on the basis of a detailed plan, in support of a particular thesis using exegesis to buttress their claims.

Course Requirements at a Glance:

- To pass this course, students will have to:
 - Regularly attend, and do the readings assigned for, the course lectures;
 - Complete at least three out of four of the formative assignments; and
 - Complete the summative final exam (exegetical essay)
- Failure to meet these conditions will result in a grade of F.

Attendance:

- *Attendance and participation are critical components of all courses in the liberal arts. Thus, a pattern of non-attendance will in and of itself constitute sufficient grounds for my awarding a final course grade of F.*
- This means that you must attend lectures regularly or you will fail the course automatically. If you find yourself having to miss more than two or three classes, you will have to justify your absences, and the onus will be on you to do so (I will not chase after you). You will not be penalized if there are legitimate reasons for your repeated absences.
- Furthermore, it is your responsibility to stay on top of any materials covered, to find out about and obtain any materials distributed, and to enquire about any announcements made during lectures you must miss for whatever reason.

Late Assignments:

- Assignments will be docked a third of a letter grade for every day they are late.
- All components of an assignment (as stipulated on the relevant course handout) must have been handed in for an assignment to be considered on time.

Plagiarism:

- Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A professor who suspects a student has committed plagiarism in an assignment or evaluation is required to turn the matter over to the Dean's Office. Students found guilty of plagiarism can receive a 0% for the assignment or a grade of 'F'

for the whole course. In extreme cases, they can even be suspended or expelled from the university.

- If you use ideas or language from secondary sources in your written work without citing those sources properly, you will have committed plagiarism, and I will have no choice but to hand over your work to the Dean's Office for investigation.
- Please read the full Departmental policy on plagiarism, which can be found on the final page of this course syllabus.

Generative AI:

- The use of generative AI to produce an assignment is strictly prohibited in this course.
- If I suspect an assignment has been produced (wholly or in part) by generative AI, I reserve the right to summon the student who has submitted the work to my office for an examination.
- If this examination confirms me in my suspicion that the assignment has been produced by generative AI, I will hand the case over to the Dean's Office for further investigation and possible prosecution as a violation of academic integrity.
- The reason you must not use generative AI is that this course is designed, above all, to help you develop certain skills: how to make sense of a text, how to communicate your understanding of a text clearly and effectively, and how to develop and present your own argument about a text. These skills can only be developed through practice. If you outsource the training of these skills to AI, you will not develop them. It would be like hoping to improve your fitness level by paying someone else to go the gym for you; it doesn't work that way.

Technology in the Classroom:

- The use of electronic devices of any sort in the classroom is forbidden unless you have obtained permission to do so from me based on a request for accommodation made through Carleton's Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC).

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Class #	Dates:	Readings:
1	9 September	No assigned reading
2	14 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 1, 2 (Il.1-500), 3, and 4 (Il.1-280)
3	16 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 5, 6 (skip Il.135-284), and 8 Due: formative assignment 1; thesis statement
4	21 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 9, 11 (skip Il.340-705), 12 (Il.380-end), and 13 (Il.835-end)

5	23 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 14, 15 (skip ll.475-685), 16
6	28 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 18-20
7	30 Sept.	Homer, <i>Iliad</i> , Books 21-22, 24
8	5 October	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 1-2, and 4 Due: formative assignment 2; explanation of one short passage
9	7 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 5-8 (skip ll.120-410)
10	14 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , 9-11 (skip ll.258-410; 615-end)
11	14 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 12-14 (skip ll.228-408), 15 (skip ll.430-550)
12	19 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 16-18
13	21 Oct.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i>, Books 19-21
14	2 November	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Books 22-24 Due: formative assignment 3; explanation of how two short passages are related
15	4 Nov.	The Archaic Period and the Rise of the Polis: selected poems by Alcaeus, Theognis, and Archilochus; excerpts from Hesiod's <i>Works and Days</i> ; "Solon Visits Croesus" in Herodotus' <i>Histories</i> (all available in Brightspace)
16	9 Nov.	Sparta and Athens: poetry by Tyrtaeus and Solon (available in Brightspace)
17	11 Nov.	The Greco-Persian Wars: excerpts from Herodotus' <i>Histories</i> (available in Brightspace)
18	16 Nov.	Aeschylus, "Prometheus Bound" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
19	18 Nov.	Sophocles, "Antigone" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
20	23 Nov.	Euripides, "Bacchae" in <i>The Greek Plays</i>
21	25 Nov.	The Peloponnesian War: Excerpts from Thucydides' <i>The Peloponnesian War</i> (available in Brightspace) Due: formative assignment 4; character study
22	30 Nov.	The Pre-Socratics (selected fragments available in Brightspace)
23	2 December	The Sophists (selected fragments available in Brightspace)
24	7 Dec.	Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i> (available in Brightspace)
25	9 Dec.	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (available in Brightspace)
26	11 Dec.	In-Class Workshop
---	TBD	Summative final exam; exegetical essay

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses (Updated Aug 12,2026)

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Online Learning Resources

[On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Academic Integrity Policy

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT)
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own
- failing to acknowledge sources with proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor.

The Associate Dean of the Faculty follows a rigorous [process for academic integrity allegations](#), including reviewing documents and interviewing the student, when an instructor suspects a violation has been committed. Penalties for violations may include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Co-operation or Collaboration

An important and valuable component of the learning process is the progress a student can make as a result of interacting with other students. In struggling together to master similar concepts and problems

and in being exposed to each other's views and approaches, a group of students can enhance and speed up the learning process. Carleton University encourages students to benefit from these activities which will not generally be viewed as a violation of the Policy. With the exception of tests and examinations, instructors will not normally limit these interactions.

Students shall not co-operate or collaborate on academic work when the instructor has indicated that the work is to be completed on an individual basis. Failure to follow the instructor's directions in this regard is a violation of the standards of academic integrity. Unless otherwise indicated, students shall not co-operate or collaborate in the completion of a test or examination.

Group Work: There are many cases where students are expected or required to work in groups to complete a course requirement. Normally, students are not responsible for violations of this policy committed by other members of a group in which they participate.

More information on the process [here](#).

Academic Accommodations

Academic accommodation refers to educational practices, systems and support mechanisms designed to accommodate diversity and difference. The purpose of accommodation is to enable students to perform the essential requirements of their academic programs. At no time does academic accommodation undermine or compromise the learning objectives that are established by the academic authorities of the University.

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the *Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances*, are outlined on the [Academic Accommodations website](#).

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes can be [found here](#).

Addressing Human Rights Concerns

The University and all members of the University community share responsibility for ensuring that the University's educational, work and living environments are free from discrimination and harassment. Should you have concerns about harassment or discrimination relating to your age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed (religion), disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, place of origin, race, sex (including pregnancy), or sexual orientation, please contact the [Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities](#) at equity@carleton.ca.

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion can be found [here](#).

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own

educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).
[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of extenuating circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work. Requests for academic consideration are made in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical or Other Extenuating Circumstances](#).

Students who claim short-term extenuating circumstances (normally lasting up to five days) as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor. If the instructor requires supporting documentation, the instructor may only request submission of the University's self-declaration form, which is available on the [Registrar's Office website](#). The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule.

1. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to extenuating circumstances lasting for a significant period of time/ long-term (normally more than five days), the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.
3. If a student is concerned the instructor did not respond to the request for academic consideration or did not provide reasonable accommodation, the student should follow the appeals process described in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#).
4. If academic consideration is granted, but the student is unable to complete the accommodation according to the terms set out by the instructor as a result of further illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances beyond their control, the student may submit a petition to the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses)/Graduate Registrar (graduate courses). Please note, however, that the course instructor will be required to submit an earned final grade and further consideration will only be reviewed according to established precedents and deadlines. (More information: [Undergraduate](#) | [Graduate](#)).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of extenuating circumstances, as defined in the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In

specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three (3) working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation. In cases of short-term extenuating circumstances normally lasting no more than five (5) days, students must include the University's self-declaration form, which can be found on [the Registrar's Office website](#). Additional documentation is required in cases of extenuating circumstances lasting longer than five (5) days and must be supported by a medical note specifying the date of onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [here](#).

Academic Consideration Policy

As per the [Academic Consideration Policy](#), if students encounter extenuating circumstances that temporarily hinder their capacity to fulfil in-class academic requirements, they can request academic consideration. The Academic Consideration for Coursework is only available for accommodations regarding course work. Requests for accommodations during the formal exam period must follow the [official deferral process](#).

NOTE: As per the Policy, students are to speak with/contact their instructor before submitting a request for Academic Consideration. Requests are not automatically approved. Approving and determining the accommodation remains at the discretion of the instructor. Students should consult the course syllabus about the instructor's policy or procedures for requesting academic consideration. [More information here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend, you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load. A course dropped after the deadline for financial withdrawal will receive a grade of Withdrawn (WDN), which appears on your official transcript.

Even if you miss the deadline for financial withdrawal, you might decide to drop a course to avoid a failure or a poor grade showing up on your student record and bringing down your CGPA. It is your responsibility to drop the course via Carleton Central within the published [deadlines](#) (see Academic Withdrawal).

If you are considering withdrawing from a course, you may want to talk to an advisor first. Course withdrawal may affect your student status, as well as your eligibility for student funding, immigration status, residence accommodation and participation in varsity sports, etc. Additionally, remember that once you choose your courses, you must use the "Calculate amount to pay" button to determine the correct amount of fees to pay.

Carleton Central is your one-stop shop for registration activities. If you are interested in taking a course, make sure to complete your registration. Simply attending a course does not mean you are registered in it, nor is it grounds for petition or appeal.

Mental Health and Wellness at Carleton

As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me Counselling Service: call 1-844-741-6389
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement

The Centre for Indigenous Initiatives is proud to offer culturally centered individual counselling to students who self-identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuk. Through this service, Indigenous students [can access confidential, individual sessions for support with personal, mental health or academic challenges.](#)

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca